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## Senate

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, Creator of heaven and earth, lead us to the path of compassion. Help us who would be Your followers to feel the pain in our world. Open our eyes to the plight of the sick, the hungry, and the oppressed. Unstop our ears, that we may hear the groans of suffering people and the cries of those without hope. Teach us to pray for the lost, the lonely, and the least, until we unleash Your sovereign power that can rescue the perishing.

Today bless the work of our Senators and use them as agents of Your grace. Help them to do their part to relieve suffering, to alleviate pain, and to plead for justice.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we open the Senate with a 30-minute pe-

riod of morning business. After those statements, we will resume consideration of the Department of Defense authorization bill. There are now six pending amendments that the chairman and ranking member are reviewing to determine how much debate will be necessary. Yesterday, Senator LEVIN filed an amendment related to troop withdrawal in Iraq. I understand that amendment may be offered today. I know many Senators will want to participate in that debate. It is my expectation that we will set up blocks of time for debate, perhaps for this afternoon, so that Senators will know of the appropriate time to come to the floor to give their remarks on the amendment. In addition to the pending amendments, other amendments will be offered today. Therefore, we will be voting today on amendments to the Defense authorization bill. The Democratic side of the aisle will have their normal policy meeting today, and we will recess from 12:30 to 2:15. As a reminder to my colleagues, we have scheduled our Republican policy meeting to occur during Wednesday's session instead of today.

### IRAQ

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I want to take a few moments to comment on the debate that has been underway on the Defense authorization bill. In particular, I want to draw attention to the heroism, courage, and great work of our soldiers on the frontline. Every day they are risking their lives to defend our freedom. They are taking that battle to the enemy so that the enemy does not bring that battle to us on our own soil.

No one would have guessed almost 5 years ago that we would be free from having suffered another major terrorist attack. We have been extraordinarily fortunate. We remember 1993, the World Trade Center attack, Khobar Towers, our embassies in Tanzania and

Kenya, the USS *Cole*, and then that day on 9/11. We have been safe because of our brave men and women, Americans who are putting their lives on the line to protect this country. Then there was that day on 9/11 where our enemy declared war. They slaughtered innocent citizens right here on American soil. They judged us to be weak, to be vacillating. They believed we would cower in the face of brutality. They were wrong.

Out of the black smoke and ashes of that terrible day, America stood up strong, united, and determined. And after careful deliberation, we answered back. We toppled the Taliban in Afghanistan, where al-Qaida had trained. We toppled Saddam Hussein, a real and continuing threat to the security of our Nation and to our allies. Since then we have continued the hard work of draining the swamp that nurtured and festered these monsters. It hasn't been easy. The last 3 years have strained our patience as we have watched the terrorists' counterattack. Innocent Iraqis, coalition forces, humanitarians, and journalists have been targeted simply for trying to secure a free and open Iraq. But the enemy's effort to plunge Iraq into chaos will not succeed.

Slowly, freedom is gaining ground. The Iraqi people are emerging from three decades of brutal repression and claiming their right to stand among democratic nations. Last year, millions of Iraqis defied the threats of Abu al-Zarqawi and streamed to the polls in three national elections. Iraq's Sunni population participated in greater numbers each time. On June 8, the new democratically elected Prime Minister Jawad al-Maliki named the last three members of his Cabinet—the Ministers of Defense, Interior and Security—thereby completing formation of his unity government. What huge progress. The new government is committed to facing the challenges of terrorism and corruption and to move Iraq's fledgling

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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